



Monongahela National Forest South Zone Recreation Site Status

The epic flooding that occurred in West Virginia on June 23 and 24, 2016 impacted the southern half of the Monongahela National Forest (Greenbrier, Webster, Nicholas, and the southern half of Pocahontas counties.) Numerous roads and some recreation sites and trails received varying degrees of damage such as: mud and rock slides; fallen trees; flood debris; blown culverts; road and trail washouts; and destroyed trail bridges. Hazard trees continue to fall across roadways. Workers are surveying flood damage and making repairs, but it will be some time before everything is back to normal.

Visitors to the flood-affected areas are encouraged to be extra aware of their surroundings as there may be: trees falling due to saturated soils or weakened root systems; roads reduced to single lanes because of washouts; shoulder damage on roads; displaced gravel; even larger potholes; and heavy equipment working on restoration efforts. Please, slow down while driving and practice defensive driving techniques. Make it a practice to look up for tree damage or the possibility of tree fall before making camp. Trails have not been accessed for damage. Recreationists can expect blown-down trees over the trails, washed out trail tread, and damaged or destroyed trail bridges.

Travel into the forest from the south, especially through the towns of Richwood and White Sulphur Springs, is not advised at this time. These communities were especially hard hit by flood waters. Please respect the local residents' need to recover from this flood by accessing open forest recreation areas in the affected counties from the north.

Monongahela National Forest Staff will be updating this factsheet as conditions change. After each update, we will change the version number and date/time last updated. Please check back often. You may also email us at: monflood2016@gmail.com.

Name	Status	Ranger District
Cranberry Mountain Nature Center	OPEN. Aside from loosing power over the weekend, the Nature Center was not affected by the storm. It is open with all services according to its normal schedule: Thursdays through Mondays, 9am to 4:30pm.	Gauley
Highland Scenic Highway	OPEN. The Highland Scenic Highway and overlooks are fine with the exception of trailhead parking lot to Honeycomb Trail. A culvert failed so you cannot drive into trailhead. But, you can park on the side of the Highland Scenic Highway (be sure to pull off the road as far as possible) and hike into the trail.	Marlinton





Name	Status	Ranger District
Developed Campgrounds		
Big Rock Campground	OPEN. There was no storm/flood damage to the campground. We are testing the drinking water to make sure it is safe to drink. If it is not, we will keep the well closed until the water is safe to drink.	Gauley
Bishop Knob Campground	OPEN. There was no storm/flood damage to the campground. We are testing the drinking water to make sure it is safe to drink. If it is not, we will keep the well closed until the water is safe to drink.	Gauley
Blue Bend Recreation Area	OPEN. Parts of Blue Bend Recreation Area were flooded. Much of the flagstone in the large beach area was washed loose and moved around. This damage will likely not be cleaned up by the 4th of July weekend. The swinging bridge to the far beach area is fine. Both picnic shelters will be useable this weekend, but the Big Shelter's floor was warped by floodwater. The Little Shelter is ok. The trail bridge from the day use area to the beach is gone. You'll have to walk around. The campground is fine. It had some flooding and did loose power for a while, but is now fully operational.	White Sulphur Springs
Blue Meadow Group Campground (across from Blue Bend Campground)	OPEN. There was no storm/flood damage to the campground.	White Sulphur Springs
Cranberry Campground	OPEN. During the storm, the stream along the side of the campground washed away some campsite gravel. We are testing the drinking water to make sure it is safe to drink. If it is not, we will keep the well closed until the water is safe to drink. Some vault toilets were filled by rainwater runoff and should be pumped out by the weekend.	Gauley
Day Run Campground	OPEN. There were a little bit of water damage, but we are working to clean it up.	Marlinton
Lake Sherwood Recreation Area	OPEN. The recreation area lost power over the weekend, but was not flooded during storm. Power has been restored and the campground is fully operational. The Lake Sherwood boathouse and store is open and has supplies and ice.	White Sulphur Springs
Pocahontas Campground	OPEN. There was no storm/flood damage to the campground.	Marlinton





Name	Status	Ranger District
Summit Lake Campground	OPEN. There was no storm/flood damage to the campground. We are testing the drinking water to make sure it is safe to drink. If it is not, we will keep the well closed until the water is safe to drink.	Gauley
Tea Creek Campground	OPEN. During the storm, water was going over the low-water bridge. When it receded Friday morning, there was sand and debris on the bridge. This has been cleaned up now.	Marlinton
River-side Campsites		
Cranberry River Sites	OPEN. Some of these sites were flooded so you can expect mud and debris.	Gauley
Sites near Blue Bend Campground	OPEN. Some of these sites were flooded so you can expect mud and debris.	White Sulphur Springs
Williams River Sites (downstream of Tea Creek Campground)	CLOSED. These sites are closed because of extreme flood damage to both the campsites and Williams River Road.	Gauley
Williams River Sites (upstream of the Highland Scenic Highway)	CLOSED. These sites are closed because of thick mud and flood debris.	Marlinton
Picnic Areas		
North Bend Picnic Area	OPEN. There was no storm/flood damage to the picnic area.	Gauley
Rimel Picnic Area	OPEN. There was no storm/flood damage to the picnic area.	Marlinton
Woodbine Picnic Area	OPEN. There was no storm/flood damage to the picnic area. We are testing the drinking water today to make sure it is safe to drink. If it is not, we will close the well until it can be cleaned.	Gauley
Trail Information		
Cranberry Glades Boardwalk	OPEN. The Cranberry Glades Boardwalk received minor damage during the storm, but has been assessed and is safe to use.	Gauley
Cranberry River Trail	CLOSED. The trail is washed out from Holcomb to the mouth of the Cranberry River.	Gauley
Eagle Camp Trail	Trail is OPEN, but the trail bridge off Route 39 was damaged and is unusable.	Gauley
Falls of Hills Creek Trail	OPEN. The Falls of Hills Creek trail received minor damage during the storm. The trail, steps, and boardwalks are open, but use caution until all of repairs can be made.	Gauley
Pocahontas Trail	Trail is OPEN, but the trail bridge off Route 39 was damaged and is unusable.	Gauley





Name	Status	Ranger District
Rocky Run Trail	Trail is OPEN, but the trail bridge in Area the Blue Bend Recreation Area is washed out.	White Sulphur Springs
Tea Creek Trail	Trail is OPEN, but the trail bridge in Tea Creek Campground was damaged and is unusable.	Marlinton
Closures -- please respect closure signs and stay out of these areas. Thank you.		
Williams River Road (FR 86) -- downstream of Tea Creek Campground	CLOSED from Tea Creek Campground downstream to where state maintenance begins on County Road 46/2 several miles east of Dyer WV due to extreme flood damage. The junction to Forest Road 101 at Dyer is open allowing travel to Bishop Knob Campground, Cranberry Campground, etc.	Gauley
Williams River Camp Sites (downstream of Tea Creek Campground)	CLOSED. These sites are closed because of extreme flood damage to both the campsites and Williams River Road.	Gauley
Camp Splinter Road (FR 83)	CLOSED.	Gauley
Honeycomb Rocks Parking Lot	CLOSED to motor vehicles. A culvert failed so you cannot drive into trailhead. But, you can park on the side of the Highland Scenic Highway (be sure to pull off the road as far as possible) and hike into the trail.	Marlinton
Williams River Fishing Pier (just upstream of the Highland Scenic Highway)	CLOSED. The fishing pier will remain closed until it can be repaired. Supports under the pier were undermined and the ramp to the structure washed out. The vault toilet is locked closed until it can be pumped out.	Marlinton
Williams River Road (FR 86) -- upstream of the Highland Scenic Highway	CLOSED from the Highland Scenic Highway to County Road 17. Recreationists can get to Day Run Campground from Edray WV and County Road 17.	Marlinton
Williams River Sites (upstream of the Highland Scenic Highway)	CLOSED. These sites are closed because of thick mud and flood debris.	Marlinton

